

Community resources

[Follow us on Twitter](#) [Check our Reddit](#) [Twitter this](#) [Digg this page](#) [Contact us on IRC](#)

courage is contagious

Viewing cable 07PORTAUPRINCE944, C) C-AL7-00733: VENEZUELAN AID TO HAITI

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g.

#07PORTAUPRINCE944.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
07PORTAUPRINCE944	2007-05-24 17:45	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Port Au Prince

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.haitiliberte.com>

<http://bit.ly/mDfYBE>

<http://bit.ly/mcuO3r>

VZCZCXRO5873
PP RUEHQU
DE RUEHPU #0944/01 1441745
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 241745Z MAY 07
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6166
INFO RUEHZH/HAITI COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 1539
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY 1358
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCPDOG/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PORT AU PRINCE 000944

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

NSC FOR FISK
STATE FOR WHA/CAR

INR/I
WHA/EPSC FOR FAITH CORNEILLE, ED MARTINEZ
EB/IFD
STATE PASS TO USAID FOR LAC/CAR
TREASURY FOR JEFFREY LEVINE
COMMERCE FOR SCOTT SMITH

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/22/2032
TAGS: [PINR](#) [EPET](#) [EAID](#) [VE](#) [HA](#)
SUBJECT: (C) C-AL7-00733: VENEZUELAN AID TO HAITI

REF: A. SECSTATE 66324
[1](#)B. 06 PORT AU PRINCE 1377
[1](#)C. 06 PORT AU PRINCE 1598
[1](#)D. PORT AU PRINCE 833
[1](#)E. PORT AU PRINCE 829

Classified By: Ambassador Janet A. Sanderson for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)
)

[1](#)1. (C) Summary: Venezuelan promises of over USD one billion in aid and assistance to Haiti have not materialized except for two examples of in-kind assistance. Venezuela delivered a shipment of petroleum and asphalt, both of which arrived without forewarning, and the GoH re-sold the goods to no immediate benefit to the Haitian people. Though GoH officials have grown increasingly skeptical of Venezuelan promises (and have said so much to Emboffs in private), they continue to hope that President Chavez will follow through on at least a portion of what he has committed. In a bout of optimism, the GoH ended its contract with the largest electricity supplier to Port-au-Prince, partially because of its faith in future Venezuelan assistance to the electricity sector totaling 160 MW of additional capacity. End summary.

[1](#)2. (U) The answers below are keyed to the questions in Ref A.

QUESTION B

- - - - -

[1](#)3. (SBU) A team of Venezuelan engineers visited Haiti in December, 2006 to assess potential technical assistance to the airports. There have been no results from the visit.

[1](#)4. (SBU) According to Venezuelan news reports, President Chavez shipped garbage trucks to Haiti in March. Pol specialist called government contacts in the public works ministry and customs, none of whom could confirm that the garbage trucks had arrived.

QUESTION C

- - - - -

[1](#)5. (SBU) Venezuela kicked off its relationship with President Rene Preval on the eve of his inauguration by sending one shipment (100,000 barrels) of petroleum in May, [1](#)2006. This was a grant and not part of the Petrocaribe agreement. The Haitian government struggled to sell the petroleum and finally convinced the local oil company, whose president Edouard Baussan is very close to Preval, to buy the fuel from the GoH (Ref B). There is no schedule for the second shipment, although GoH officials have said they hope to have the first official Petrocaribe shipment by June or July. (Note: This is highly likely according to contacts in the oil industry. End note.)

[1](#)6. (SBU) According to Public Works Minister Frantz Verela, Venezuela sent one shipment (10,000 barrels) of asphalt to Haiti in June/July, 2006. The GoH had the same problems with the asphalt that it had with the petroleum: it did not have the means to transport it or storage capacity (Ref C). Post later learned that the GoH shipped and sold the asphalt to the Dominican Republic.

QUESTION D

- - - - -

[1](#)7. (SBU) President of the National Assembly Joseph Lambert

told Emboffs that of Venezuela's promised millions, Haiti has received only USD two million in humanitarian assistance. Post has not come across any evidence to confirm this statement.

QUESTION G

18. (C) Various GoH officials have complained to post that Venezuela has not delivered on its promised aid and assistance. President Preval and his advisors privately told Ambassador Sanderson on numerous occasions that they no

PORT AU PR 00000944 002 OF 002

longer count on Chavez' extravagant promises. President Preval continues to hold out some hope and has taken advantage of his last two encounters with Chavez to press him to carry out the agreements between Venezuela and Haiti. However, he appears to be losing patience: Lambert told Emboffs that Preval took an anti-ALBA stance during private meetings with Chavez at the ALBA summit in April, telling Chavez he can keep his aid if ALBA membership is a condition (Ref D).

QUESTION I

19. (SBU) Michael Lecorps is the head of the GoH's bureau of monetization (informally known as the Petrocaribe office) and is charged with carrying out the Petrocaribe agreement. In addition to shipments of gasoline, diesel and asphalt, the agreement includes assistance to the electricity sector (an additional 60 MW countrywide, 40 MW following the repair of a Port-au-Prince power plant, and 60 MW saved by using lower-energy light bulbs -- Ref E).

110. (C) Comment: Even if the GoH has some hope that the Venezuelan aid will materialize, the general population appears to give little heed to Chavez' claims. At first his promises generated some attention, but recently, his guarantees receive little, if any, press. The GoH appears to be well on its way to realizing what the populace already knows: seeing is believing when it comes to promises from Venezuela, and Chavez' words are empty until he arrives with cash in hand.

SANDERSON

=====CABLE ENDS=====